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CONGRESSMAN ED CASE
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

ISLANDS OF HAWAII, MAUI, KAHOLAWE, LANAI,
MOLOKA'I, O'AHU (WINDWARD, NORTH SHORE,
CENTRAL, LEEWARD), KAUAI AND NI'HAU,
AND NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

August 2006

FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY REPORT

Dear Friend:

Throughout the history of our country and our Hawaii, our communities of faith have worked to meet the spiritual and social needs of our people. I want first to express my deep appreciation to you and yours for your selfless efforts on behalf of those we both serve.

There are a number of issues ongoing in our federal government of interest to our faith-based community. This is to report to you on some of those efforts, to let you know what my office can do to assist your community, to ask for your guidance on my overall efforts as your Congressman, and to offer to meet with you.

I have focused on a sampling of issues of concern to our greater faith community based in part on my meetings with various faith-based organizations over my four years in Congress as well as responses to my 2005 faith-based community report and survey. I have broken these down into three areas: Helping Our Communities; Protecting Our Environment; and Caring For Our World.

In addition, I often receive questions and comments regarding the legal rights and obligations of faith-based organizations and related current federal issues. I am enclosing two updated Congressional Research Service reports on this vital subject. The reports can also be accessed by a link through my Congressional website.

Also, my congressional staff and I stand ready, willing and able to assist you in addressing the needs of your communities. I have provided information on the resources of my office as well as how you can get in touch and stay in touch with us. Should you desire, I would be happy to work toward a meeting with your community where we can "talk story" about any subject of interest to you, and I have provided information on how we might arrange that.

It is a great privilege to serve you and yours in our Congress, and I thank you for the opportunity to provide this report. I truly look forward to continuing to work with you to fulfill our mutual commitment to a better Hawaii, country, and world.

With aloha,

Ed Case

ED CASE
United States Congressman
Hawaii, Second District

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET

AGRICULTURE

LIVESTOCK AND HORTICULTURE
(RANKING MEMBER)

CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

SMALL BUSINESS

TAX, FINANCE AND EXPORTS

REGULATORY REFORM
AND OVERSIGHT

RURAL ENTERPRISES, AGRICULTURE
AND TECHNOLOGY

A. Helping our Communities

Faith-based organizations represent an integral part of our nation's social service network. I have focused on a few federal programs that may be of interest to you and the work of your organization.

1. The Emergency Food Assistance Program

The federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) helps to supplement the diets of low-income individuals, including the elderly, by providing emergency food and nutrition assistance. Under TEFAP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) makes commodity foods available to states. States, in turn, provide the food to local agencies, usually food banks, which in turn, distribute the food to soup kitchens and food pantries that directly serve those in need. USDA also provides funds to state agencies to cover administrative costs – including processing, storage and distribution – incurred by state and local organizations in the operation of the program.

On May 23, 2006, the House passed the FY2007 Agriculture and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 5384). The bill includes \$140 million for TEFAP, which is equal to the amount provided in FY2006 and that requested in the President's budget. The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported out its FY2007 funding bill, which is currently awaiting consideration by the full Senate.

2. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant program distributes funds to states and territories on a formula basis to meet local needs for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. States submit a yearly plan on how the funds will be used. Faith-based and community organizations can apply directly to states for these funds. In total, the yearly allocation of funds for the block grant program is larger than funds available for specific discretionary grant programs. For example, in FY2005-2006, \$7.1 million was allocated for distribution by the Hawaii Department of Health.

The House Appropriations Committee reported out H.R.5647, the FY2007 Departments of Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill, on June 13, 2006. The bill includes \$1.8 billion for SAPT block grants, which is \$75 million more than that provided in FY2006 and requested by the President. There is much speculation that the House will not consider H.R. 5647 until mid-November, due to concerns with funding levels for other programs funded by the bill. You can review the bill at the following Library of Congress website: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

3. Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) Program

The purpose of the Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI) Program is to make grant awards eligible to organizations that create permanent full-time employment and business opportunities for welfare recipients and other low-income individuals through: (1) self-employment; (2) microenterprise; (3) new business ventures; (4) business expansion through the

provision of technical or financial assistance to private employers to create new jobs; and (5) non-traditional employment development initiatives.

Funded projects must: (1) create new employment and/or business opportunities for welfare recipients and other low-income individuals; (2) enter into a cooperative relationship with the local Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) agency involving supportive services and client referrals to the project, and projects are encouraged to establish a formal partnership with the local Child Support Enforcement (CSE) agency involving non-custodial parent referrals to the project; (3) develop a comprehensive project design that describes the work program and strategy, the participant training design, support services and counseling, technical and financial assistance plan, access to business capital, and follow-up participant support services; and (4) include an independent, methodologically sound evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities in creating new jobs and/or business opportunities.

Only non-profit organizations, including faith-based community development corporations and charitable organizations, that are tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, are eligible to apply for this grant. More information on the JOLI program can be found at the following website www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/joli/index.html.

4. The Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency founded in 1993, promotes volunteerism in our communities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds. CNCS is the parent agency for initiatives such as AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, and Senior Corps. In partnership with the president's initiative, CNCS is committed to strengthen the work of faith-based and small community organizations and over the past ten years has partnered with a variety of these organizations across the nation.

Currently, CNCS supports 9,200 members of varying ages and backgrounds serving in 29 service initiative programs in our Hawaii. This year, CNCS will commit more than \$4.6 million to support Hawaii communities through its programs.

For information on how to partner with CNCS, please visit the following website:
http://www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/faith/resources.asp.

B. Protecting Our Environment

Persons of faith recognize our responsibility to care for our Earth and its diverse and precious ecosystems and species. Many faith-based groups have become increasingly vocal in support of efforts to combat global warming, ensure the health of our oceans and the sustainability of our fisheries, protect endangered species and the habitats they depend upon, and preserve and improve the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Being from Hawaii, we are surrounded by nature's beauty and are, I believe, especially attuned to the need to protect our precious and fragile environment. I strongly feel that an integral part of my many responsibilities as a representative in Congress of the people of Hawaii is to advocate for protection of the environment for our Hawaii, our nation, and our planet.

My major environmental efforts related to Hawaii include:

- Protecting the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
 - Introduced H.R. 2376, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act
 - Worked with the President's administration to urge support for complete protection, which ultimately resulted in creation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Monument
- Preserving our coastal areas, unique ecosystems, and endangered and threatened species
 - Introduced law that authorized expansion of the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kauai.
 - Requested study (to be published soon) on the feasibility of designating the Ka'u coastline as a unit of the National Park Service in order to prevent development, ensure continued access by residents, and protect native species
 - Introduced bills to authorize studies of the North and South coasts of Maui for designation as National Seashores
- Combating invasive species
 - Introduced H.R. 3468, the Hawaii Invasive Species Prevention Act, which would require the federal government to provide enhanced assistance to the State of Hawaii in order to prevent introduction of more invasive species.

Nationally, I have taken strong pro-environmental positions across the board. My highest priorities include:

- Preserving our landmark environmental laws that were enacted by administrations of both parties over the past 30-40 years, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Addressing the issue of global warming through both research and restrictions on emissions of greenhouse gases. Cosponsor of H.R. 759 the Climate Stewardship Act, and H.R. 5642, the Safe Climate Act.
- Opposing drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Teshupak Lake
- Protecting the old growth and roadless areas of our national forests from logging, while allowing sustainable logging in managed areas. The old growth roadless areas are critical to the survival of many plant and animal species.
- Increasing requirements for fuel efficiency for cars
- Encouraging development of renewable energy
- Protecting our oceans, corals reefs, and fisheries while supporting sustainable use
- Designation of wilderness areas to protect national treasures from being lost forever for short-term economic gain.
- Member of the National Park Caucus, the Wildlife Refuge Caucus, and the National Landscape Conservation System Caucus.

We have much to do together to truly protect our environment. I especially want to work with you and yours on this indispensable effort.

C. Caring For Our World

I share with our communities of faith a commitment to the welfare of our world. We must continue to be vigilant in advocating for the resolution of global crises and the provision of assistance to those far beyond our own borders.

Below are just a few of the global issues that are of great concern to each and all of us today.

1. Conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan

The ongoing conflict between the government-backed Janjaweed militia and anti-government rebel groups in the Darfur region of Sudan has claimed the lives of over 400,000 people since the start of the crisis in February 2003. An additional 2.5 million people have been displaced, raped, tortured or otherwise had their lives affected by this conflict. Despite signing a peace agreement in May of this year, violence has increased in the region. The United States has been the only country thus far to declare that the atrocities committed in Darfur have amounted to genocide. I however share the concern and frustration of many with the slow and inadequate response to date of our country and world.

By way of background, the civil conflict in Sudan began in the 1960s when dispossessed African and Christian groups in the south sought greater autonomy from and equality with the dominant Arab and Muslim groups in the north. Since the National Islamic Front (NIF) seized control of Sudan's government in 1989, the political mood in the south has shifted in favor of separation from the north.

In early 2003, two groups – the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) – emerged in western Sudan (Darfur) to challenge the NIF-led government, claiming that it discriminated against African-Christian farming groups while favoring Arab-Muslim nomadic groups. The NIF has, by all accounts, been actively supporting Arab militias, called the Janjaweed, to implement these discriminatory policies.

In November 2004, the House approved H.R. 5061, the "Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act"; I voted in favor. In addition, the conference report for H.R. 4939, the 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, provided \$126 million for meeting peacekeeping and humanitarian needs in Sudan. I supported passage of the bill, now P.L. 109-234. Please be assured that I will continue to support initiatives that promote a global diplomatic and economic response to the continuing crisis in Darfur.

For more information on the Darfur please visit the following website:
http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/sudan/countryprofile.html

2. Reducing Global Poverty

Global poverty is a huge concern for our entire world community. The tragic reality is that each year more than 8 million people around the world die because they are too poor to stay alive. One in six people live in extreme poverty defined as living on less than \$1 a day. The sources of global poverty are complex and must be resolved through a multi-pronged approach.

There are five major categories of foreign assistance by our country: bilateral development aid, economic assistance supporting U.S. political and security goals, humanitarian aid, multilateral economic contributions, and military aid. Due largely to the implementation of two new foreign aid initiatives, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Global AIDS Initiative, bilateral development assistance has become the largest category of U.S. aid.

On June 8, 2006, the House began consideration of H.R. 5522, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2007. H.R. 5522 provides \$21.3 billion for foreign aid and export assistance, which is 10% less than the amount requested by the President but \$597 billion more than that provided in FY2006.

H.R. 5522 passed the House on June 9, 2006 by a vote of 373 to 34; I did vote in support of final passage. You can continue to monitor the progress of H.R. 5522 on the following Library of Congress website: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

3. Disaster Relief for 2004 Asian Tsunami victims

On December 26, 2004, an undersea earthquake registering between 9.1 and 9.3 on the Richter scale off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a series of devastating tsunamis that spread throughout the Indian Ocean. The Asian Tsunami killed large numbers of people and inundated coastal communities across South and Southeast Asia, including parts of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand. The plight of the many affected people and countries prompted a widespread humanitarian response. In all, the worldwide community donated more than US\$7 billion in humanitarian aid to those affected by the earthquake.

Though the Asian Tsunami occurred almost two years ago, we must continue our efforts to rebuild the lives of those affected. To find out more about recovery efforts or how you or your organization can contribute to tsunami disaster relief, please visit: <http://www.tsunamispecialenvoy.org>.

D. Government Resources for Faith-Based Organizations

1. Federal Assistance to Faith-Based Service Groups

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives supports the outreach activities of faith-based organizations through the identification and elimination of barriers to federal opportunities for these organizations. The office supports programs for those in need, particularly those that serve at-risk youth, ex-offenders, the homeless and hungry, substance abusers, those with HIV/AIDS, and welfare-to-work families. This list is by no means all-inclusive.

The website for the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives can be found at www.fbc.gov. Here you can access information about the policy issues affecting faith-based organizations, guidance on legal issues, or materials to help find grant programs available to you, including a catalog, which contains a listing of close to 200 federally funded programs.

2. Federal Agency Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

In addition to the White House office, centers exist within ten federal agencies that deal specifically with faith-based organizations. Each agency receives federal funding, which it then in turn grants to organizations that serve their particular focus community. Information about specific agency center programs can be found at the White House Office website (www.fbc.gov) or directly through the agencies listed below:

Department of Justice
Steven McFarland, Director
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Room 4413
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 514- 2987
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbc

Department of Labor
Jedd Medefind, Director
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20210
(202) 693-6450
www.dol.gov/cfbc

Department of Health and Human Services
Greg Morris, Director
200 Independence Avenue, SW Suite 118-F
Washington, DC 20201
(202) 358-3595
www.hhs.gov/fbc

Department of Education
Shayam Menon, Director
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20208
(202) 219-1741
www.ed.gov/faithandcommunity

Department of Commerce
Katie Knapp, Director
1401 Constitution Ave, NW, Suite 5517
Washington, DC 20230
(202) 482-4355
www.commerce.gov/fbc

Department of Agriculture
Therese Lyons, Director
14th and Independence Ave, SW, Room 200-A
Washington, DC 20250
(202) 720-3631
www.usda.gov/fbc

U.S. Agency for International Development
Garrett Grigsby, Director
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20523
(202) 712-4080
www.usaid.gov

Small Business Administration
Joseph Shattan, Director
409 3rd St, SW
Washington, DC 20416
(202) 205-9037
www.sba.gov/fbc

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Rob Bogart, Director
451 7th Street SW, Room 10184
Washington, DC 20410
(202) 708-2404
www.hud.gov/offices/fbc

Department of Veteran Affairs
Darin Selnick, Director
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-7499
www.va.gov

Department of Homeland Security
Keith Rothfus, Director
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 786-9430
www.dhs.gov/fbc

Corporation for National and Community Service
Alison Fritz, Director
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20525
(202) 606-5000
www.cns.gov

3. Hawaii Programs

There are two kinds of federal grants: those directly from the federal government to service providers and recipients and those from the federal government to state, county and local governments for distribution. The latter are generally known as “formula” or “block” grants. On balance there are more resources available through the latter programs, as the federal government awards more money to other governments than to individual grant-seekers.

Many states, in coordination with the White House Office, have set up state offices or liaisons that deal with the concerns of faith-based and community organizations. For Hawaii, the faith-based contact is:

Sam Aiona, Executive Director
Office of Community Service
830 Punchbowl Street, Room 420
Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 586-8675
Email: sam.aiona@hawaii.gov

E. Congressional Research Service Reports

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a department of the Library of Congress and works exclusively as a nonpartisan analytical, research, and reference arm for the U.S. Congress. CRS has produced two reports for me and my colleagues in Congress on current rights and issues regarding faith-based organizations. I have made these reports available for your review on my congressional website at www.house.gov/case; just go to the on-line version of this “Faith-Based Community Report” in the upper right box and click to the “CRS Reports” section.

F. Your Congressional Office

1. Office Mission and Resources

My job is to represent the people of my district and our Hawaii in our federal government. That means being your voice on the great issues of our day, listening to your concerns, letting you know what your government is doing, and helping you on your individual problems whenever and however I can.

I have a full-service congressional office in Washington, D.C. and throughout my Hawaii district to assist me in performing my duties. More information on my office and activities and opportunities can be found on my website at www.house.gov/case

2. Contact Information

I would very much like you to contact me with any thoughts, questions, comments or concerns facing your organizations. This is how you can contact me and my office:

Washington Office
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4906
Fax: (202) 225-4987

Hawaii Office
5104 Prince Kuhio Federal Building
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Maui: 242-1818

Lanai: 565-7199

Molokai: 552-0160

E-mail: ed.case@mail.house.gov

3. Signup for Congressional E-mail Newsletter

I use an e-newsletter to provide frequent updates about what's happening in Washington as well as the 2nd Congressional District and to ask for input. If you haven't signed up and would like to receive these e-mails, please log onto my website at www.house.gov/case/email_list, or you can call or email at the above contacts to be put on our list. I may occasionally ask you to fill out electronic surveys, but I will never release your contact information to anyone else. If you have already signed up, thank you; you do not need to submit your name again.

4. Other Federal Grants and Resources

There are many opportunities for federal grants and other assistance that are not directly tailored to faith-based organizations. You can go to my website for information on such grants and resources and other aspects of our federal government. There, for example, you will find contact information for federal offices in Hawaii, resources compiled by the Congressional Resource Center, and a link to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (www.cfda.gov). This Catalog includes a listing of about 1,500 federal grant and assistance programs and includes a useful search engine.

5. Arranging a Meeting or Event

I truly welcome opportunities to meet personally, discuss issues of mutual concern, address groups on issues of our day, or participate in community events. Please contact Roberta Weatherford in my Honolulu office at (808) 541-1986 or by email at roberta.weatherford@mail.house.gov.

G. This Report Online

For your convenience and use, I have placed a copy of this report online under the newsletter section of my website at www.house.gov/case/newsletter.